

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated November 3, 2006. In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-6 and 9-10 are under consideration in this application. Claims 2, 5 and 10 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. A new claim 10 is being added.

The claims and the drawings are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better disclose or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the specification and the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 2, 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 7-72508 to Konya et al. (hereinafter "Konya"), and claims 5 and 9 were rejected by the newly cited reference of US Pub. No. 2002/0132385 A1 of Dojo (hereinafter "Dojo"). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konya in view of US Patent No. 6,356,331 B1 to Ono et al. (hereinafter "Ono '331") and US Pub. No. 2002/0047970 A1 of Ono et al. (hereinafter "Ono '970"), and claim 6 was rejected over Dojo in view of Ono '331 and Ono '970. These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

The display device of the invention (for example, the embodiment depicted in Fig. 1; pp. 8-15), as now recited in claims 2 and 10, comprises: signal lines DLs which are formed on an upper surface side of a substrate SUB1 to provide a display region AR (Fig. 2A); an insulation film IN which is formed to cover the signal lines DLs except for terminal portions

of the signal lines DLs in periphery of the substrate SUB1 (p. 12 , 1st paragraph); and conductive layers MTs which extend in an extension direction of the signal lines DLs to traverse the terminal portions.

In claim 2, a gap is formed in the insulation film IN and is shaped rectangular (See annotated Drawing 1). A pair of holes HLs are formed in the signal lines DLs at portions underneath and corresponding to two sides of the gap along the extension direction (See annotated Drawing 2). Each of the conductive layers MTs is formed on the signal lines DLs and between the pair of holes HLs, a part of said each conductive layer MT is formed on the insulating film IN, while the insulated film IN is formed on the signal lines DLs and outside of the pair of holes HLs (See annotated Drawing 3).

According to claim 10, another insulation film GI is formed between the substrate SUB1 and the signal lines DLs, and each of the signal lines DL branches to three along the extended direction to provide a central portion and two side/edge portions. Each conductive layer MT is formed on the central portion, and the insulation film IN is formed on the side/edge portions (Figs. 1A and 1C). A pair of holes HLs are formed among the central portion and the two side portions, and the first insulation film GI are exposed at positions of the holes HLs.

Applicants respectfully contend that none of the cited references teaches or suggests that “each of the conductive layers MTs is formed on the signal lines DLs and between the pair of holes HLs, a part of each of said conductive layers MT is formed on the insulating film IN, while the insulated film IN is formed on the signal lines DLs and outside of the pair of holes HLs” as in the present invention.

In contrast, Konya's conductive layer 31b does NOT ride on the insulated film 24 (Figs. 4-5) as does the one in the present invention.

The invention of claim 5 is directed to a display device (for example, the embodiment depicted in Fig. 6; pp. 22-25) comprising: signal lines DLs which are formed on an upper surface side of the substrate SUB1 to provide a display region AR; semiconductor layers PSs which are formed below the signal lines DLs by way of a first insulation film GI such that the semiconductor layers PSs traverse the signal lines DLs at terminal portions of the signal lines DLs in periphery of the substrate SUB1; a second insulation film IN which is formed on top of the substrate SUB1 to cover the signal lines DLs and in which holes HLs

are formed above regions thereof where the semiconductor layers PSs are formed; conductive layers MTs which have respective sides thereof in the extension direction of the signal lines DLs arranged at both sides of the signal lines DLs and are connected with respective semiconductor layers PSs (Fig. 6C). The display region AR includes thin film transistors TFTs (Fig. 2), and a material of the semiconductor layers PSs in the periphery of the substrate SUB1 is equal to a material of semiconductor layers of the thin film transistors TFTs in the display region AR (original claim 7). The semiconductor layers PSs are exposed at positions of the holes HLs (Fig. 6C).

Dojo's Fig. 13 was cited to cover the features of claim 5 (p. 4, 3rd paragraph of the outstanding Office Action). However, Dojo's semiconductor layer (123, 119) is NOT exposed at positions of the holes 153-156.

Ono '331 and Ono '970 were relied upon by the Examiner (p. 5, last paragraph and p. 6, first paragraph of the outstanding Office Action) to cover the features recited in claims 3 and 6. However, they fail to compensate for Konya's and Dojo's deficiencies as discussed above.

Applicant contends that Konya, Dojo, Ono '331, and Ono '970 do not teach or disclose each and every feature of the present invention as disclosed in at least independent claims 2, 5 and 10. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

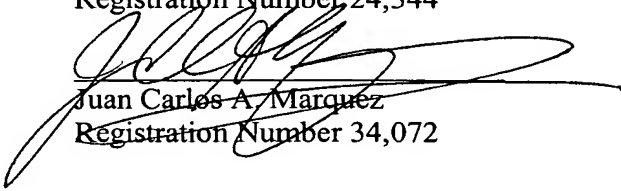
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the

above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

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